

## CLAIMS

- [c1] 1. In a controller operating in a group communication network, a method for putting a net into a dormant mode, the method comprising:
- determining whether the net has been inactive for a predetermined first time period;
  - if it is determined that the net has been inactive for the predetermined first time period, causing each member of the net to enter a control-hold mode, wherein said each member of the net maintains its dedicated traffic channel;
  - determining whether said each member of the net has been in the control-hold mode for a predetermined second time period; and
  - if it is determined that said each member of the net has been in the control-hold mode for the predetermined second time period, causing said each member of the net to enter a dormant mode, wherein said each member of the net releases its dedicated traffic channel.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, wherein if it is determined that said each member of the net has not been in the control-hold mode for the predetermined second time period, further including:
- causing said each member of the net to return to an active mode, wherein said each member of the net maintains its dedicated traffic channel, if a member of the net requests a group call.
- [c3] 3. In a controller operating in a group communication network, a method for putting a net into a dormant mode, the method comprising:
- determining whether the net has been inactive for a predetermined time period;
  - causing each member of the net to enter the dormant mode if it is determined that said each member of the net has been inactive for the predetermined time period; and
  - causing said each member of the net to cache a state of its service configuration before entering the dormant mode.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said causing said each member of the net to enter the dormant mode includes causing said each member of the net to release its dedicated traffic channel.

[c5] 5. In a controller operating in a group communication network, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for putting a net into a dormant mode, the method comprising:

determining whether the net has been inactive for a predetermined first time period;

if it is determined that the net has been inactive for the predetermined first time period, causing each member of the net to enter a control-hold mode, wherein said each member of the net maintains its dedicated traffic channel;

determining whether said each member of the net has been in the control-hold mode for a predetermined second time period; and

if it is determined that said each member of the net has been in the control-hold mode for the predetermined second time period, causing said each member of the net to enter a dormant mode, wherein said each member of the net releases its dedicated traffic channel.

[c6] 6. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein if it is determined that said each member of the net has not been in the control-hold mode for the predetermined second time period, the method further including:

causing said each member of the net to return to an active mode, wherein said each member of the net maintains its dedicated traffic channel, if a member of the net requests a group call.

[c7] 7. In a controller operating in a group communication network, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for putting the communication device into a dormant mode, the method comprising:

determining whether the net has been inactive for a predetermined time period;

causing each member of the net to enter the dormant mode if it is determined that said each member of the net has been inactive for the predetermined time period; and

causing said each member of the net to cache a state of its service configuration before entering the dormant mode.

[c8] 8. The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein said causing said each member of the net to enter the dormant mode includes causing said each member of the net to release its dedicated traffic channel.

[c9] 9. A controller operating in a group communication network, comprising:  
means for determining whether the net has been inactive for a predetermined first time period;

means for, if it is determined that the net has been inactive for the predetermined first time period, causing each member of the net to enter a control-hold mode, wherein said each member of the net maintains its dedicated traffic channel;

means for determining whether said each member of the net has been in the control-hold mode for a predetermined second time period; and

means for, if it is determined that said each member of the net has been in the control-hold mode for the predetermined second time period, causing said each member of the net to enter a dormant mode, wherein said each member of the net releases its dedicated traffic channel.

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[c10] 10. The controller of claim 9, wherein if it is determined that said each member of the net has not been in the control-hold mode for the predetermined second time period, further including:

means for causing said each member of the net to return to an active mode, wherein said each member of the net maintains its dedicated traffic channel, if a member of the net requests a group call.

[c11] 11. A controller operating in a group communication network, comprising:  
means for determining whether the net has been inactive for a predetermined time period;  
means for causing each member of the net to enter the dormant mode if it is determined that said each member of the net has been inactive for the predetermined time period; and

means for causing said each member of the net to cache a state of its service configuration before entering the dormant mode.

[c12] 12. The controller of claim 11, wherein said means for causing said each member of the net to enter the dormant mode includes means for causing said each member of the net to release its dedicated traffic channel.

[c13] 13. A controller for providing a dormant mode, comprising:  
a receiver;  
a transmitter; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver and the transmitter, the processor being capable of:

determining whether the net has been inactive for a predetermined first time period;

if it is determined that the net has been inactive for the predetermined first time period, causing each member of the net to enter a control-hold mode, wherein said each member of the net maintains its dedicated traffic channel;

determining whether said each member of the net has been in the control-hold mode for a predetermined second time period; and

if it is determined that said each member of the net has been in the control-hold mode for the predetermined second time period, causing said each member of the net to enter a dormant mode, wherein said each member of the net releases its dedicated traffic channel.

[c14] 14. The controller of claim 13, wherein if it is determined that said each member of the net has not been in the control-hold mode for the predetermined second time period, the processor further being capable of:

causing said each member of the net to return to an active mode, wherein said each member of the net maintains its dedicated traffic channel, if a member of the net requests a group call.

[c15] 15. A controller for providing a dormant mode, comprising:

a receiver;

a transmitter; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver and the transmitter, the processor being capable of:

determining whether the net has been inactive for a predetermined time period;

causing each member of the net to enter the dormant mode if it is determined that said each member of the net has been inactive for the predetermined time period; and

causing said each member of the net to cache a state of its service configuration before entering the dormant mode.

[c16] 16. The controller of claim 15, wherein said causing said each member of the net to enter the dormant mode includes causing said each member of the net to release its dedicated traffic channel.